



The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, April 19, 2026 Vol. 93, No. 2

President's Message: It is finally warming up which means the leaves will be coming out on the trees, so it is time to check the placement of your antennas. It won't be long before the leaves are all in and finding the ideal branch will be more difficult. If you make any antenna changes, please take photos and send a summary for inclusion in the Circuit. As I write this, Hopkinton is preparing for the 130th running of the Boston Marathon. If any of our members are volunteering as Ham Radio operators, let us know about your experience.

This month we have another piece by Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, about past FARA members, Ed and Mary Weiss, now both SK. Ed put on a course for the Extra Class license for me and one other ham in 2012. Each Saturday we worked through questions from the pool and Ed would go to the white board that was on the wall opposite the radio equipment in the club's shack and explain the answers. Needless to say after about six of these sessions, we both passed our Extra tests!

Since the last Circuit, we had presentations on QRP operations, Civil Air Patrol Radio and POTA Operations (from the perspective of a new Ham by Darrin, KC1WVQ with comments by Jonathan Slawsby, W5GI about his operations on Anegarda). We look forward to Sumner's reflections on 74 years of Ham Radio at our May 7 meeting. After that we have Officer elections in June and a discussion about Field Day, perhaps with a video.

Club Activities Since Last Circuit

January 8, 2026: Clipperton Island DxPedition, 38th most wanted. TX5S (picture in last Circuit)

February 5, 2026, Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, spoke about "QRP Operations"

Definitions- QRP



- Q-Code-
 - "QRP?" means - Shall I decrease transmitter power?"
 - "QRP" means - Please decrease your transmitter power or I have decreased my power
- Usually refers to 5 or less watts output power from transmitter on HF bands
- Usually the recognized value for contesting categories and awards



March 5, 2026, Tony Immorlica, KC2TV, spoke about "Civil Air Patrol Radio"



The slide features the Civil Air Patrol logo on the left and a circular emblem on the right. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The title "Civil Air Patrol Communications" is centered at the top. Below the title, a list of five bullet points is displayed, each preceded by a red arrow icon. A white play button icon is positioned over the second bullet point.

Civil Air Patrol Communications

- What is the CAP and how did it come to be and why does it exist?
- What are some of the main functions of CAP?
- What role does the radio component of CAP play?
- Examples of radio activities.
- What are the requirements and expectations for being involved in CAP radio?

Thursday April 2, 2026, Darin Larabee, KC1WVQ and Jonathan Slawsby, W5GI spoke about "Getting started in POTA from the perspective of a new Ham".



The slide has a dark green background. On the left, there is a small image of a portable radio setup. The title "What Is POTA?" is in large white font. Below the title, a list of three bullet points is shown, each preceded by a white dot. A white play button icon is positioned over the first bullet point. In the top right corner, there is a small video inset showing a person in a green shirt.

What Is POTA?

- An International program promoting portable amateur radio operations in parks and protected areas
- Encourages outdoor activity, radio skills, and community engagement
- Two main roles: Activators (operate from parks) and Hunters (contact activators)

Upcoming FARA Meetings / Activities: (Thanks to Andy Boughton, KC1DMM and others who put together a program sub-committee).

- **May 7, 2026:** Club officer nominations. Sumner Weisman, W1VIV, will present on "74 Years of Being a Ham". Framingham McAuliffe branch library Community Room.
- **June 4, 2026:** Club officer elections. Field Day discussion and maybe a Field Day video. This will be at the Framingham main library, Costin room.
- **September 3, 2026:** Steve Hewlett, W1NIV, will present on "A Primer On VHF Contesting".
- **October 1, 2026:** Tony Brock-Fisher, K1KP, will present "The Journey from Polar Explorer to Aurora" video with live Q&A by the author.
- **November 5, 2026:** John Rokicki, KC1VMZ, will present on "APRS, Emergency Communications and Net Central".
- **December 2026:** Likely a dinner on a Saturday.

Ed and Mary Weiss (SK), W1NXC and KA1HGL
by Sumner Weisman, W1VIV

I want to continue my occasional series on key FARA members who are no longer with us. In the March 2025 issue of the Circuit, I wrote about Julie Hoffer, W1DL. This time, I would like to tell you about Ed and Mary Weiss, who were the founders of FARA's well known "License in a Weekend" program. Hundreds of people either got their Technician license, or an upgrade to General or to Extra Class, through their efforts. For a small fee to cover the cost of lunch, the sessions consisted of a full day on Saturday, half a day on Sunday morning, and the exam after lunch. I still meet people who proudly say, "FARA got me started in ham radio!" Mary put together fine sandwiches, and together they were a great team. Ed's teaching faculty included Peter Simpson, KA1AXY, Lee Gartenberg, K1GL, Dennis Brothers, N1DB, Jim Weckback, W1EQW, and this writer, W1VIV. I'm sure there were others, and I apologize for my inadequate memory. Although Ed's classes were mainly for the Technician class license, he and I once put on a training session specifically for getting the General Class license.

Ed worked professionally for New England Telephone (now Verizon) as a transmission Engineer. He was an Extra Class ham operator, a VE, and also a Registered Professional Engineer. He completed the ARRL Emergency Communications courses and was a certified instructor for level I, II, and III. One year we all voted for Ed, and he was made QST's "Instructor of the Year." Ed also had the title of Director of FARA. When they were up in years, Ed and Mary still came to Field Day and other events. We put on a well-attended party for them at La Cantina Restaurant in Framingham, and FARA presented Ed with a beautiful chrome plated Vibroplex bug (semi-automatic key) with a red paddle. At least one of their grandchildren became a ham.



Ed teaching a License in a Weekend class.



Ed was a great instructor



Ed W1NXC (SK), Mary KA1HGL (SK), and John, KB1VXY. I think this was the 80th anniversary of Upton State Forest in 2015.

Odds and Ends:

- **Zippitty-Do-Dog**, our site for Hot Summer Hot Dog Happenings, is being sold by the owner. Their website on Facebook says they are under contract with a new prospective owner.
- **MIT Flea Markets** have resumed for the third Sunday of the month, from April through October.
- **ECARA Flea** next week (Eastern Connecticut) April 26, 2026 <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/ecara-flea-market-5>
Raceway Restaurant at Thompson Speedway, 205 East Thompson Rd., Thompson, CT 06277
- **Nearfest**: May 1 and 2, 2026 Friday and Saturday The Hillsborough County 4H Fairgrounds, 17 Hildale Lane, New Boston, NH <https://near-fest.com/>
 - K1NR notes that there will be a Ham Radio Lunch at the Nels and Gene table at Nearfest at 11:45 am. Bring your own chair
- **AWA**: W1QIY notes that the Antique Wireless Association has a 160 meter net on Mondays: 160 Meter Top Band Net 1946.5 kHz, SSB or AM – 8PM
- **HamX**: The Northeast HamXposition, August 13-16, 2026 **(note the earlier date!)** will be at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road W, Marlborough, Massachusetts.
<https://hamxposition.org/>

Submissions: Please submit articles, selected DX or interesting contacts that you worked, new equipment reviews, ideas for group activities, YouTube videos that you liked, POTA activation dates ahead of time or results, etc., anything you think your fellow hams may be interested in.

FARA Meetings: FARA regular club meetings are held on Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, and some meetings will also be hybrid, usually at the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Library. We take July and August off. Always check the webpage first. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting. **Members should be sure that they opted in for email notifications and that their email on record is accurate!** Nonmembers may request an

invitation from president@w1fy.org.

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, **NOTE: PL tone is now 100.** Social/chat, emergency preparedness, amateur radio questions, Echolink enabled. W1FY-R
- FARA Net: Wednesday 7:30 pm, Informal Check-in Net: Echolink enabled, W1FY-R.
- Scanner listeners are invited to let us know you follow the nets by sending an email to contact@W1FY.org

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/FARAW1FY/>

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membershipform>

Testing: Exams on hold. There are many testing options in the area, and we can help you find one.

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